

Hong Kong confirms first
human case of bird flu... pg 2

Thousands of Dutch
military face axe pg 3

SETAR N.V. launches its end
of the year campaign pg 5

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Friday, November 19, 2010

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Reported cases of Dengue spike after months of steady rainfall

Minister of Public Health, Sports and Drugs, Richard Visser, called a press conference at the Department of Health in Oranjestad on Wednesday, November 17 to bring the public up to date on the status of Dengue cases on Aruba following a busy storm season with heavy rainfall.

Presenting the hard data on the number of reported cases as of the end of last month was Maribelle Tromp of the Department of Epidemiology. Reported cases have been steadily increasing since week 32 (August) of this year with 59 possible cases being reported in week 44, (October/November.) At present, the labs report 86 confirmed cases of Dengue and 335 suspected cases pending test results.

Since week 32 the reported number of cases has edged into what is considered "outbreak" status, though 2010 as yet has



Director of Department of Health Derek Ian Blok

not nearly as many cases as was reported in 2009, which was feeling the effects of a very busy storm season beginning the summer before.

Health officials remind the public it is important to be aware of the symptoms of

Dengue and the consequences of repeated infection. Family doctors have been very cooperative in reporting suspected cases demonstrating symptoms of high fever for 2 to 7 days, severe pain in the joints and around the eyes, which also show as sensitivity to light, and usually a rash; possibly nausea and/or diarrhea. Dengue often mimics flu symptoms, so some are not as conscientious about visiting their doctors as they should be. Also reporting at the prescribed times for testing is necessary to confirm the presence of Dengue and the second test administered 2 weeks later is needed to type the strain.

There are 4 strains of the Dengue virus, some more debilitating than others. Once an individual has contracted a particular strain of Dengue, they will be immune to it for the remainder of their lives.

Continued on page 4



Minister Richard Visser

Gene and JoAnn Taylor honored at the Costa Linda Resort



Recently, loyal Aruba vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation for visiting Aruba for ten or more and 20 or more consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Visitors of Aruba distinction and those with 20 or more consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of Goodwill title. Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority honored Gene and JoAnn Taylor as Ambassadors of Goodwill of Aruba. They have been vacationing here for 21 years. During small ceremony on their behalf at the Costa Linda Beach Resort - their home away from home - ATA associate Ricardo Croes handed them a beautiful certificate as a 'thank you' gesture for their love and loyalty to our island. Photo shows Mr. Croes together with Gene and JoAnn and a Costa Linda Beach Resort associate.

Six countries turn down Nobel ceremony invite

OSLO, Norway (AFP) - Six countries, including China, Russia and Iraq, have turned down an invitation for their ambassadors in Oslo to attend the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony in honour of jailed Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo next month, the Nobel Institute said yesterday. The six who have said no are China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Cuba, Morocco and Iraq.

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MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Billionaire Donald Trump eyes 2012 presidential run

NEW YORK CITY (AFP) - Developer tycoon Donald Trump has his eyes on the United States' ultimate real estate: the White House.

Trump, the brash billionaire star of his own reality show, "The Apprentice," told ABC news he is seriously considering a run as a Republican in 2012 and could "easily" spend more than 200 million dollars of his own money.

"It could be fun because I'd like to see some positive things happen for the country. I'm going to make a decision probably by June," Trump told ABC's anchor George Stephanopoulos.



One principal policy as president would be to take on

China's mighty economy, he said.

China is "getting away with murder" by manipulating its currency to US disadvantage, he said, calling the United States a "whipping post."

"The respect for this country is just not there," he said. "I have many people from China that I do business with, they laugh at us. They feel we're fools. And almost being led by fools. And they can't believe what they're getting away with."

This was not Trump's first trial balloon about a presidential run. He explored the idea in 1999.

If he did challenge for the nomination, he might well find himself up against another controversial character with her own reality show: former Alaskan governor Sarah Palin.

Thousands of Dutch military face axe: ministry

THE HAGUE, The Netherlands (AFP) - The Dutch defence ministry said yesterday that the military faced job cuts of up to 10,000 due to budget-

ary cuts.

Citing "financial difficulties," Defence Minister Hans Hillen had informed parliament that "fundamental choices" would have to be made, the ministry said in a statement.

"A large cut in personnel numbers is unavoidable," it said. "Based on the financial scenarios, one should think along the lines of 10,000 jobs. Forced retrenchments (redundancies) cannot be excluded."

Ministry spokesman Otto Beeksmas said the defence force currently counted about 69,000 employees, 19,000 of them civilians and 40,000 military personnel. The cuts would affect both.

More precise figures would become available in the coming months, the statement said.

In September, the Dutch government announced measures to cut government spending by 3.6 billion euros in 2011 to halt rising public debt and aid long-term economic recovery.

Hong Kong confirms first human case of bird flu since 2003

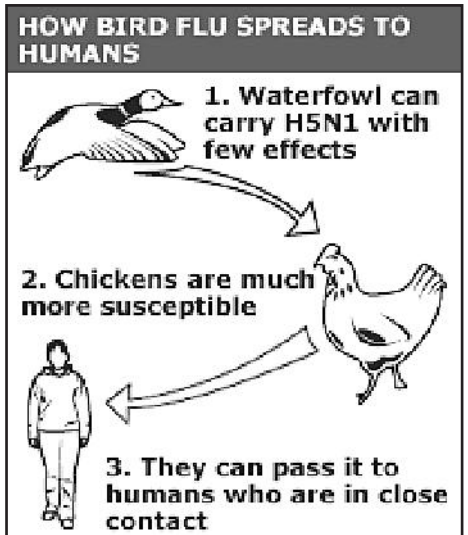
HONG KONG, China (AFP) - Hong Kong scrambled yesterday to contain any outbreak of bird flu, seeking to reassure the public after the teeming city recorded its first human case of the illness since 2003.

The government has raised its avian influenza alert level to "serious," meaning there is a "high risk" of people contracting the potentially fatal disease, a spokesman for the Department of Health told AFP.

But officials said there was little risk of person-to-person transmission, after a 59-year-old woman tested positive for Influenza A (H5), a variant of bird flu. She was in a serious

condition in a hospital isolation ward.

Hong Kong recorded its last human case of bird flu in 2003, and had the world's first major outbreak among humans in 1997, when six people died.



US: Cholera strain may last years in Haiti environment

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Haiti has been hit by a particularly "virulent" strain of cholera that could stay in the country for years, even if health measures will now limit its human toll, US officials said yesterday.

Not only do Haitians have little or no immunity to fight a disease that has been absent from Haiti for at least 50 years, "this strain of cholera seems to be more virulent than normal strains," US official Thomas Adams told reporters.

Adams, the special US coordinator for Haiti, also said that following January's devastating earthquake the international community knew that Haitians were susceptible to waterborne diseases like cholera.

However, they expected the disease was more likely to

break out in overcrowded Port-au-Prince, which was flattened by the quake, rather than in outlying areas.

"The disease fooled us," Adams said.

Manoj Menon, the Center for Disease Control liaison for the US cholera response, said health officials could not rule out rumors that poor sanitation at a UN peacekeeping compound caused the outbreak.

"We will likely never know where this came from," he said, pointing out the difficulties in pinpointing the source of the disease.

With more than 1,100 Haitians now dead and more than 18,000 taken ill, it is difficult to know how many more people will die from or contract the disease, Menon added.

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SETAR N.V. announces a few changes in its SETAR Cable services

SETAR N.V., in its plight to give customer the best service possible, has introduced a few changes in its the cable channel programming, for the Basic Package as well as for the Digital Basic Package.

The changes were introduced yesterday, November

18, 2010 and are as follows: Tele Curacao, a new channel, can be tuned in on channel 54. All clients with Basic Digital package can now enjoy all Curacao's news via Tele Curacao. Also our local television plant, Tele Aruba, was launched on the High

Definition channel, becoming the first HD channel in our region. Now clients can enjoy the new sharp images that Tele Learning Aruba offers on the HD channel 313.

Following a lineup of the new cable services of SETAR

BASIC PACKAGE

Actual:

Channel 35 TBN- Trinity Broadcast Network
Channel 36 EWTN
Channel 43 The Learning Channel
Channel 44 Liv
Channel 45 Tempo

Will be now:

The Learning Channel
Liv
TBN- Trinity Broadcast Network
EWTN Spanish
EWTNW English

BASIC DIGITAL PACKAGE

Actual:

Channel 54 -
Channel 56 -
Channel 67 TV Colombia
Channel 68 Tele Novelas
Channel 69 CNN International
Channel 313 -

Will be now:

Tele Curaçao
CNN International
Tempo
TV Colombia
Tele Novelas
Tele Aruba HD

Department of Rent and Consumers Affairs celebrates its 14th anniversary

ORANJESTAD – On November 19, 1996, the Aruba government introduced the Rent and Consumers Affairs Department. The objective of this department is to promote a more balanced management of rent- and consumers affairs. The department is very popular, but erroneously known as Huur Commissie – Rent Commission. In reality, assisting the Rent Commission is just one of the many services this department offers.

Rent Commission is an independent commission instituted by the government since 1939 and is in charge of the implementation of the ordinance that addresses all rental matters and issues. The government, thru the Rent Commission, tries to moderate for a large part on the rental conditions (price, termination of rental contract, physical condition of the rented house/apartment).

One of the task of the Rent Commission is to settle a dispute or make declarations between the landlord and the tenant on, for example, the price, and if necessary, stipulate a reasonable rental price and expenses involved with the rent. If a landlord and a tenant has a dispute or a difference in opinion regarding the rental price or termination of a rental contract they must go to the Rent Commission department.

The Rent Commission then



will attend both parties and based on the explanations and facts given by both parties, will give their final declaration on the case

Besides that, the Department of Rent and Consumer Affairs also offers the following services to tenants and landlords:

- General information related with rent;
- Intermediation;
- Termination of rental contract or agreement (thru the Rent Commission dept);
- Configuration of a rental price (thru the Rent Commission dept);
- Permission to increase the rental price (thru the Rent Commission dept.);

The Department of Rent and Consumer Affairs, on the other hand is developing other services that will help the consumer as well as the merchant

to understand their rights.

Consumer is a broad label for any individuals or households that use goods and services generated within the economy. This term is very ample and refers to almost anyone. The law, nevertheless, defines the consumer as an individual who does not buy or use a service for his business or profession but as an individual. The law also defines the vendor as an individual who executes a sale in name of his profession or business. An agreement between the vendor and consumer is called a consumer purchase agreement.

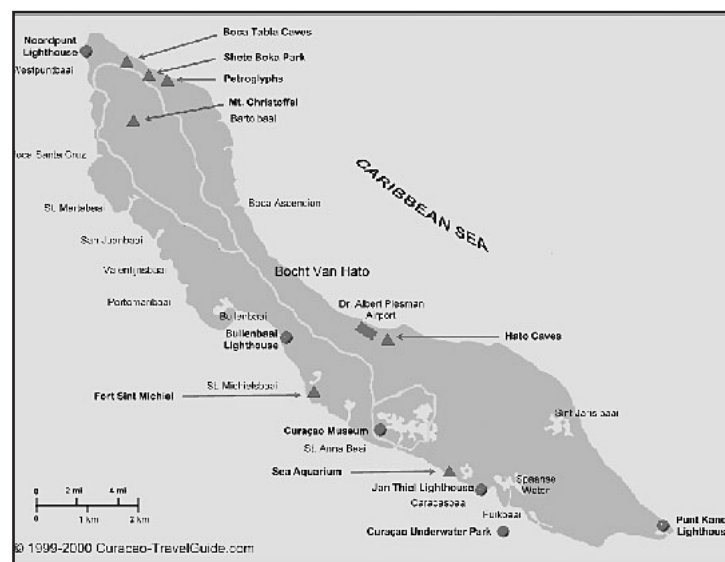
A consumer purchase is an agreement in which, by law, the vendor and the consumer has rights and obligations. But, in the law's point of view, when closing an purchase agreement between a vendor and consumer, it is the vendor who is the expert. Because of that, the law focuses more on protecting the consumer as they are the weak party in the agreement.

The Department of Rent and Consumers Affairs provides service on all the above mentioned issues, by giving information and guidance to all parties involved.

For more information and questions on their services readers may contact the department at tel. 582-9914, or visit them at wayaca 33. E-mail is bhc@aruba.gov.aw.

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KLM airline backing Curacao space-flight venture



The island of Curaçao

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida - KLM Royal Dutch Airlines is partnering with a commercial suborbital space-flight venture planning to operate out of the Caribbean island of Curaçao, officials said yesterday.

KLM, a division of Europe's largest airline, Air France-KLM, has purchased "a few" tickets for suborbital spaceflights through Space Experience Curacao, a private venture backed by two Dutch entrepreneurs that plans to operate a two-seater Lynx suborbital spaceship being developed by XCOR Aerospace of Mojave, California.

"We're enthusiastic about this," spokeswoman for the airline, Gedi Schrijver said.

She declined to be more specific about the number of tickets purchased by KLM bought or how they would be used. The advertised price for rides are \$95,000. One person rides alongside the pilot.

A recent news release, jointly issued by XCOR and Space Experience Curacao, said KLM plans to offer suborbital spaceflights for frequent flyer mileage redemptions and in vacation packages.

Space Experience Curacao

announced last month its intention to lease a Lynx suborbital spacecraft, pending U.S. government approvals for the vehicle to be located on the island of Curaçao in the Netherlands Antilles. Commercial spaceflights are scheduled to be in January 2014. XCOR would provide operational support at the proposed Space Port Curaçao.

A similar service, backed by billionaire Richard Branson's London-based Virgin Group, is setting up commercial space operations in New Mexico.

Mojave, California-based Scaled Composites, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Northrop Grumman Corp, has begun test flights of a six-passenger, two-pilot suborbital spaceship it built for aspiring space line operator Virgin Galactic, which has collected more than \$50 million in deposits for rides that cost \$200,000 per person.

Both ventures will offer passengers a few minutes of weightlessness beyond Earth's atmosphere and a view of the planet from a vantage point of about 65 miles (105 km) above ground.



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FantaSea at the Royal Plaza

Reported cases of Dengue spike after months of steady rainfall

Continued from page 1

Dengue can be life-threatening for infants; the first infection is rarely so for adults and healthy youngsters. The greatest danger of Dengue is being infected by a different strain; when this happens, Hemorrhagic Fever can develop, which can prove deadly.

Minister Visser and Director of the Department of Health, Derek-Ian Blok remind island residents and businesses to be very conscientious regarding prevention

of the proliferation of the Aedes Aegypti mosquito, carrier of the Dengue virus. Canvassing by the health department has found that one in three homes of the areas of greatest concentration of reported Dengue cases have proven to be breeding grounds for the mosquito. Individual households must take precautions to prevent the accumulation of standing water, particularly in plant pots, waste receptacles, pet water dishes, and fountains or

pools. Muddy pools of rainwater are not a threat as Aedes Aegypti requires clean water, not dirty, in which to lay their eggs. However, litter which can provide a place for clean water to collect, no matter how small, does present a threat. Eggs of the Aedes Aegypti are also capable of surviving for a year, even after the water has dried up, and can hatch months afterwards, once water collects in the receptacle. Officials recommend the pan under the refrigerator be checked regularly. Police the grounds around your home or business up to a distance of 150 yards and remove all debris where rainwater might collect and remain clean.

23% of the reported cases are based out of the eastern outskirts of Oranjestad in the Dakota/Tarabana area. Paradera and Noord follow with 14% of the confirmed cases of Dengue. A larger percentage of those cases are women, (238) to men (183), but this can also be attributed to women being more conscientious about visiting their doctors and reporting for the testing. The majority of cases were reported among adults ages 25 to 64, with 8 cases among infants under 1 year old.

Among those reporting symptoms and being tested, 51% proved positive. Among the confirmed cases, 20% have suffered Dengue infections previously, sometimes twice, so repeated infection can result in Hemorrhagic Fever, but not absolutely.

Health officials are combating the situation by an or-



Mirabelle Tromp indicates a spike in dengue cases



Roberto Werleman explains the spraying schedule

ganized scheduled of spraying to kill mosquitoes. When the trucks are present in neighborhoods, residents are advised to open their windows and doors to allow the fog to permeate their homes. This will kill the adult mos-

quitoes, but not their eggs, so it is imperative families and neighborhoods are diligent in preventing possible breeding grounds.

by Rosalie Klein



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SETAR N.V. launches its end of the year campaign, ready to give away Afls 45,000 in prizes



On November 17, SETAR N.V. launched its end of the year campaign with lots of offers and prizes for its clients. All telephone, cellular, Internet and cable clients can make good use of the many offers that SETAR has, but one of the highlights of the end of the year campaign is all clients who buy a product at SETAR N.V. will get a ticket "Win with SETAR" to participate and win cash prizes.

All SETAR N.V. clients will also receive a "Win with SETAR" ticket with their December 2010 billing, so everyone can participate in this tremendous campaign. The tickets can be deposited in the various drums placed at all SETAR Teleshops.

The first prize is Afls. 17,500 cash, second prize is Afls. 10,000 and third prize is Afls. 7,500 cash. Also, every weekend, until the end of the year, one or more SETAR clients will become the happy winner(s) of a supermarket shopping spree. There will be 10 prizes of Afls. 1,000 where clients win a 1 minute shopping spree at the super market. All SETAR N.V. clients who has an active telephone connection, cellular, Internet and/or cable automatically will come into remark to participate.

The first prize winner

drawing will be on January 3, 2011 and the second and third prize winners drawing will be during the SETAR N.V. Mobile Bazaar 2010 on December 12, 2010.

SETAR recently launched its latest 3G cellular models, among other the post paid Blackberry Torch and the Android Samsung 9000 Galaxy S. In the prepaid category, SETAR launched among others, the Samsung 3G smart phone. Also available is the famous Apple iPad combined with the new Wireless Broadband packages.

Aside from that SETAR N.V. launched Tele Aruba on HD, channel 313, and included Tele Curacao in its Digital Cable package.

SETAR N.V. has special offers for Cablenet and DSL users, where a client can buy a netbook at a very attractive price when closing a two year contract. For those who like to surf with their smart phone with the highest 3G speed, SETAR has new packages of Surf & Mail with Internet high-speed, where clients can browse instantly, while receiving-mails and checking their Facebook.

For more information regarding all these fabulous offers and prizes readers may visit SETAR'S website www.setar.aw.

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Two happy Blackberry winners of the RBTT Bank website campaign

Recently, RBTT Bank organized a campaign in connection with the launching of its new website. Every client who applied for a car loan, personal loan or loan for a house via the bank's website www.rbtt.com had the chance to win a Blackberry.

RBTT received various applications via its website and after picked two happy winners, Shaymara Sanchez and Earny Jacobs.

Photo shows the happy winners with President & Country Head RBTT Bank Aruba N.V. Edna farro and Branch Manager Head Office Julissa Croes-Helder.

"Visit our new website; it is surely an easy way to get all the information you need in the commodity of your own home," a spokesperson said.



Sci-Tech

Facebook messaging poses risks for users: watchdog

SINGAPORE (AFP) – Facebook's new online messaging service makes users of the social networking site more vulnerable to identity theft by cybercriminals, computer security firm Sophos warned Thursday.

It urged users to be aware of the security risks before signing up for Facebook's next-generation online messaging service that blends online chat, text messages and other real-time conversation tools with traditional email.

"Users need to realise that these new features increase the attack surface on the Facebook platform, and make personal accounts all the more alluring for cybercriminals to break into," said Sophos senior technology consultant Graham Cluley.

"Facebook accounts will now be linked with many more people in the users' social circles -- opening up new opportunities for identity fraudsters to launch attacks," he added in a press statement.

Sophos noted that fraudsters are increasingly using

hacked Facebook accounts to send spam messages -- compared with traditional emails -- because they are more likely to be opened by recipients lured to think the messages came from friends.

"Users also need to be aware that Facebook will be storing a complete archive of all their communications with one person. This raises concerns as to how this data could be misused if it fell into the wrong hands," Cluley said.

"With this in mind, it will be critical for Facebook to implement more effective filtering mechanisms to prevent fraudsters from manipulating Facebook users into falling victim to new spams, scams and phishing attacks."

Sophos called on Facebook users to take greater vigilance in securing their accounts, including installing hard-to-crack passwords, updating their computer security systems and being careful about which applications link to their profiles.

Facebook's new messag-

ing system was launched on Monday and includes facebook.com email addresses.

Referred to inside the Palo Alto, California-based firm as "Titan," the service will be slowly rolled out in coming months to users.

Approximately 350 million of Facebook's more than 500 million members fire off messages using its existing service, with more than four billion digital missives sent daily, Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg has said.

Market watchers say that with such a large user base, a free personalised facebook.com email service lays down a powerful challenge to the established email giants -- Microsoft's Hotmail, Yahoo! Mail and Google's Gmail.

Microsoft to put video clips in Bing Search results

Microsoft said Wednesday that it plans to beef up its Bing search results with embedded TV clips from its Bing TV service.

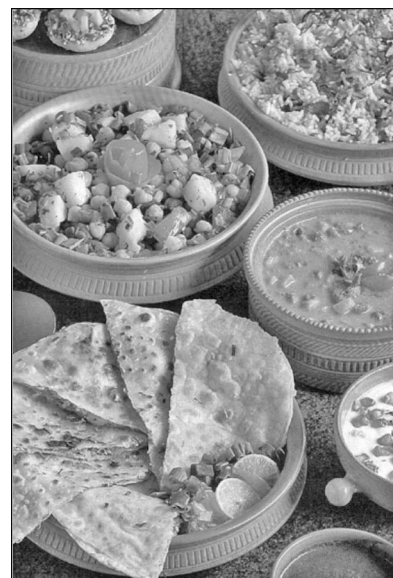
Extended TV listings and episode guides will be integrated into search results, along with clips and show information, a spokesman said via email.

Microsoft also announced MSN Montage, a way for users to mix up information sources from a given topic, including news, Twitter tweets, and images.

Although dwarfed by Google's market share in search, Microsoft executives have said that they've used the competition as a spur to innovate. The most recent improvement has been a partnership with Facebook to integrate social search results into Bing.

Earlier this year, Microsoft launched an enhanced entertainment section, also known as Bing Entertainment or Bing TV, which pulls video content from Hulu, CBS Entertainment, and other sources. Bing offers more than 1,500 shows and 20,000 full TV episodes, according to the company.

More importantly, however, Microsoft will begin to deliver video results to its Bing search results, providing a counter to Google, which shows YouTube clips inside its search results. "Extended TV listings and episode guides will be integrated into search results, along with clips and show information," Microsoft said.



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Scientists warn of more rain, heat and hurricanes

WASHINGTON (AFP) – Hungry polar bears gathering along the tundra, twice as many record-breaking temperatures and stronger hurricanes are among the latest signs of climate change, scientists say.

And we can expect more rain, more drought and fiercer storms in the future if the world continues on its fossil-fuel gobbling track, they told reporters on a conference call Wednesday to discuss the year in global warming.

Michael Mann, a leading US scientist, said he just returned from a trip to Churchill, Manitoba, the Canadian shore town famous for its polar bears, where the sea ice they depend on for hunting seals has not yet formed because of warm temperatures.

"When you go up there you see the bears all along the coast on the tundra awaiting the sea ice to form and it hasn't formed yet," Mann said.

"This was for me a very tangible and personal opportunity to see the impacts of climate change firsthand," he said. "The Arctic is in many respects a harbinger of things to come on our planet."

Mann also pointed to research being presented on Capitol Hill by another climate scientist, Jerry Meehl of National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), showing the number of record-breaking hot days is twice as high as the record cold days.

"Heat records are outpacing cold records at a factor of two to one now. That number is expected to increase to 20 to 1 by late this century if we

continue on the course that we are on with fossil fuel burning," Mann said.

Some events, such as the 2003 European heat wave which killed about 35,000 people and this year's heat wave in Moscow would be "extremely unlikely to happen in the absence of climate change," he added.

Hurricane expert Greg Holland said the fiercest storms are already showing an uptick in frequency, and more powerful hurricanes lie ahead.

"If you just look at the Atlantic in the last 10 years, we have experienced three times as many Category 5 hurricanes as have occurred in previous history on a relative basis," he said.

"We now have consensus statements coming out from the scientists and indeed a lot of regional research is pointing all in the same direction. There is nothing going in the other direction," he said.

"And that is the very intense hurricanes, the very intense (Category) fours and fives are going to increase and they could be doubling or tripling."

Holland also predicted more rain and drought in the coming years.

"As the earth warms up the atmosphere can hold more water, if there is more water available there will be more rain. Paradoxically of course there is as a result of that more drought because the land dries out quicker."

According to Mark Serreze of the National Snow and Ice Data Center, the reduction of sea ice in the Arctic will have a growing impact on temperatures in the rest of the world.



Oberstufen chief of touristic marketing Bianca Keybach poses at Hamburg's harbour on a trike equipped with Google Street View cameras after a press conference in Hamburg on the launch of Google's street info service "Street View" from 20 German cities, among them Berlin, Frankfurt/M. and Munich. Street View, which allows users to "walk" through towns and cities using photos taken by specially equipped vehicles, is already online in around 20 countries but ran into fevered opposition in Germany. AFP PHOTO

Health & Living**Cholesterol-lowering drug shows promise**

WASHINGTON (AFP) – An experimental drug to lower cholesterol has shown promise, according to a study presented Wednesday at a meeting of the American Heart Association.

The drug developed by pharmaceutical giant Merck is known as anacetrapib and showed significant decreases in "bad" cholesterol and likewise boosted "good" cholesterol levels.

The study, which has also been published in the New England Journal of Medicine, showed drops in LDL levels of cholesterol of 40 percent, while good cholesterol, or HDL levels, were lifted by 138 percent.

"These results are promising and serve as the basis for our decision to further develop anacetrapib," said Michael Mendelsohn, a lead doctor at Merck Research Laboratories.

"We look forward to continuing to study anacetrapib in a large cardiovascular clinical outcomes trial."

The company next aims to launch a 30,000 patient study over several years to determine the drug's effects over a wider sample of the population, and will monitor if the drug can reduce the risk of heart attack and stroke.

The 76-week study just completed showed a two-percent death rate due to cardiac arrest or stroke in patients treated with the drug, compared to 2.6 percent who took a placebo, Merck said.

The trial did not analyze the drug's effects on blood pressure, a problem that forces US lab Pfizer to abandon its bid in 2006 to develop a similar drug.

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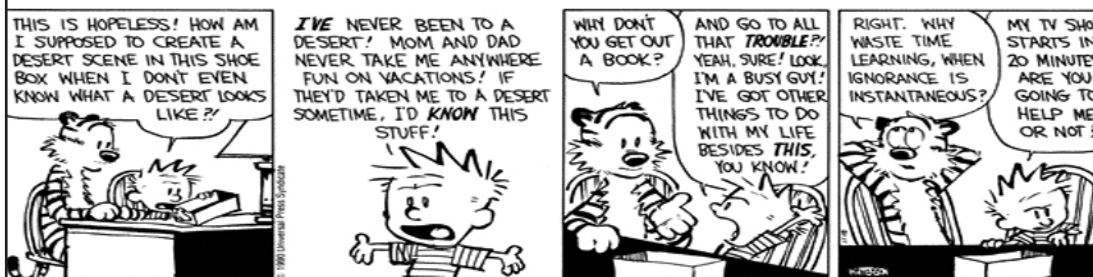
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• CHANCE MEETINGS •

ACROSS

1. Annoyance
5. Ruffian
9. Coyote State: abbr.
13. Feather scarf
16. Lariat
17. Rapid rodent
18. Wife of Zeus
19. Melody
20. Singing star meets Herod's victim
24. Prophet
25. Collection of anecdotes
26. Cereal grain
27. Stacks
28. Calling
30. 72 Across
32. Intervals
33. Like: suffix
34. Hurried
35. Astronaut
36. Boor
39. Small stream

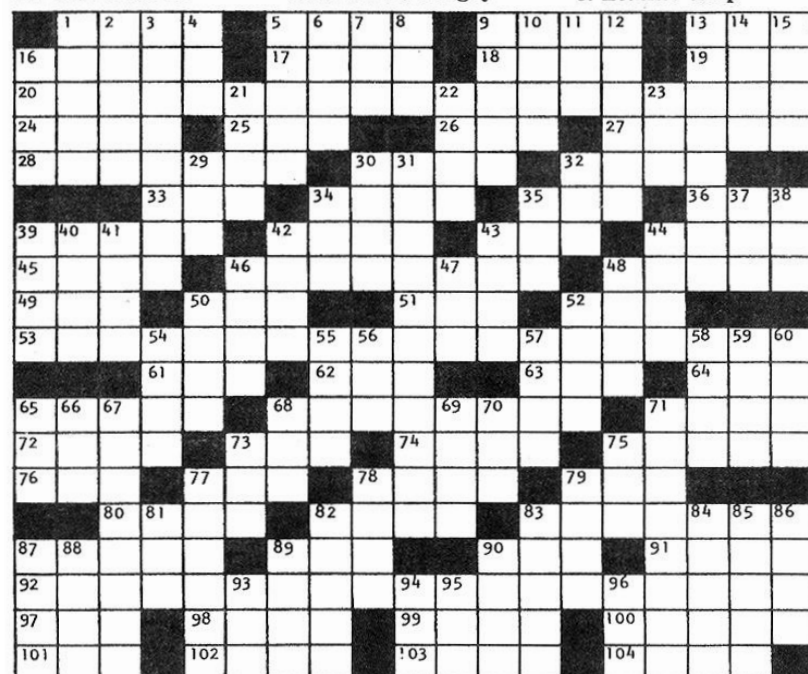
DOWN

42. Facts
43. ___ of Fundy
44. ___ Goldberg
45. "King ___"
46. Old cars
48. Destined
49. Officeholders
50. "The Wayward ___"
51. Table scrap
52. High mountain
53. Russian ruler meets Fitzgerald hero
61. Victory sign
62. Period
63. Twilled fabric
64. Golf peg
65. Walked to and fro
68. Medicine containers
71. Witnessed
72. Russian ruler
73. Sticky situation
74. African lily
75. Nitwits, slangily

76. Chum
77. Inexperienced
78. Singer Crosby
79. Japanese money
80. Imperfection
82. Fizz water
83. Coat arms
87. German steel city
89. Dairy animal
90. Flightless bird
91. Pay a visit
92. Louisiana city meets French leader
97. Glide on snow
98. Expel
99. Cook in water
100. Tire pattern
101. Yet, in poetry
102. Female ruffs
103. Ram
104. Miss D'Urberville

DOWN

1. Martinique volcano
2. Diner
3. More tempestuous
4. Light brown
5. Leather strap



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Sudoku



SOLUTION

2	7	1	8	2	9	6	9	8
8	2	8	9	1	6	2	7	9
9	6	9	7	8	2	8	2	1
6	1	2	8	7	9	2	9	8
8	8	7	6	9	2	1	2	9
2	9	9	1	2	8	7	8	6
9	8	2	2	6	1	9	8	7
7	9	6	2	8	8	9	1	2
1	2	8	9	9	7	8	6	2

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
 A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
 In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Finance



STEINBOURG, France -- Photo above gives a view of trucks and a mechanical digger in Steinbourg, eastern France during the launch of the second phase of construction work for the east European high speed train line (LGV) between Paris and Strasbourg. The line is to bound in 2016 Paris and Strasbourg in 1h50 at a speed of 320 km per hour. (AFP PHOTO)



Manila, The Philippines -- A flyover is seen at the South Luzon Expressway in Manila. The Philippine government said yesterday it would ask investors to pour in billions of dollars to upgrade the nation's creaking infrastructure, promising protection from business blackholes. (AFP PHOTO)



PUERTO MALDONADO, Peru -- Photo depicts workers in action at the Continental Bridge (ex Guillermo Billinghurst Bridge), in the Madre de Dios river near Puerto Maldonado, province of Madre de Dios. The project to build this 722-meter, 2,500 ton hanging bridge, dormant for 30 years, will be completed on 2011 to join the city of Puerto Maldonado, 2,200 km southeast of Lima, to the southern section of the Inter-Oceanic road, a 4,500 km stretch which links Peru, Bolivia and Brazil. (AFP PHOTO)

Airbus wants Rolls Royce compensation for A380 engine

PARIS, France (AFP) - European aircraft maker Airbus said yesterday it would seek compensation from Rolls Royce after one of the British manufacturer's engines failed on a Qantas Airbus A380 super-jumbo.

"We will seek financial compensation from Rolls Royce," an Airbus spokesman said.

"Our production is currently far from normal" and Airbus is incurring additional costs because of the problem

with the engine, he said.

The spokesman did not give any figures.

In London, a Rolls Royce spokesman said the company had "no comment" to make on the Airbus statement.

Qantas of Australia said earlier yesterday that Rolls-Royce could have replace up to 40 engines on A380 super-jumbos operated by various airlines.

Qantas grounded its six A380s powered by Rolls Royce Trent 900 engines after

one was forced to make an emergency landing in Singapore on November 4 after one blew out.

Rolls Royce said last week that the failure of a "specific component in the turbine area of the engine" caused the fire and mid-air blowout on the Qantas flight shortly after it took off for Sydney.

In the wake of the emergency, the European Aviation Safety Agency ordered airlines to carry out new inspections of the Rolls-Royce engines.

GM shares soar in record launch as it cuts government stake

NEW YORK CITY (AFP) - General Motors returned triumphantly to Wall Street yesterday with one of the largest stock offerings in history, ending the US government's stint as the beleaguered auto giant's top share holder.

Shares rose nearly seven percent in midday trade after a sale that threw up a firewall between bankruptcy and one and a half years of government control.

The deal, initially priced at 33 dollars a share, could be eventually be worth a total of 23.1 billion dollars across all stock classes.

"Going public is an important milestone on our way to being a new and different and better GM," said chief executive Dan Akerson.

with the engine, he said.

Akerson, who rang the opening bell on the New York Stock Exchange to the sound of a revving engine, said he was optimistic the initial public offering (IPO) would be a success, saying the shares were almost seven times oversubscribed.

President Barack Obama lauded the IPO Wednesday as "a major milestone in the turnaround of not just an iconic company but the entire American auto industry."

Obama, fresh from an election "shellacking" fueled in part by anger at big company bailouts, pointed to GM's resurgence as evidence his policies had worked.

"Supporting the American

auto industry required tough decisions and shared sacrifices, but it helped save jobs, rescue an industry at the heart of America's manufacturing sector, and make it more competitive for the future," he said.

The sale could reduce the US government stake in the automaker to 33 percent, from almost 61 percent before.

The sale will also help the government claw back at least 11.7 billion dollars of the 50 billion taxpayer bailout given to GM.

But it will be a while before the government is out of the picture completely.

Washington would need to sell the remainder of its shares at upwards of 50 dollars a piece -- well above current market value -- to recoup taxpayers money in full.

France Telecom says online firms should pay for network

MONTPELLIER, France (AFP) - Telephone and Internet provider France Telecom yesterday said Google and others should be billed according to how much traffic they generate on French networks.

"Using the network (of a provider in France) should be subject to a charge. Those who generate a lot of traffic should contribute according to the traffic they generate," the director general of France Telecom Stephane Richard said.

Speaking at a conference of the Icate telecom and audiovisual institute in Montpellier, southern France, he said Internet firms generating lots of online activity should share the cost of updating networks to meet the demand.

France Telecom was making big investments to expand Internet services which should be accompanied by "a fair sharing of value between content providers and operators," he said.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

CHAP	ADAR	EGO	ASHE
SHEBA	TRIO	BALM	CROOK
CONAND	DOYLE	BLEAK	HOUSE
ARR	TEND	ALB	NIT
REYS	BEEPS	CATTY	EDNA
JOB	SNIP	AMES	ARO
BEADED	SEINE	STIFLE	
ARMADA	ANTON	WISTER	
NNE	ELLA	SEE	ARAL
DES	WEARIER	SCOTT	ERE
	DOOR	CUTS	
BAR	ALLAN	FORESTS	BAT
ABO	BOER	SIN	DIAL
ABUSED	RINDS	BANANA	
LEGATE	ANNUL	STINTS	
HIS	RIVE	IOWA	ELK
COIL	RENEW	TWICE	EVER
URN	MEAD	ETES	ENA
RAGGED	DICK	KENIL	WORTH
STIES	ETRE	OLEO	APSES
ETTA	EON	BARN	PEER

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Sky is searching for friends and family



We would like to introduce Sky to you, one of the donkeys of the Aruban Donkey Sanctuary. This dominant donkey was born there in 2007 and he is living there together with his mother Sasha. Sky was a lovely, quiet animal, until puberty set in. And like with so many youngsters, Sky went on the prowl for female company. First the girls, then the dominant males in the group. It looked like Sky wanted to impress and put his mark on the group, but that did not sit well with the others.

Sky is still searching for his rightful position and that is sometimes difficult. At times he has to be put 'in solitary confinement' to quiet down. Indeed, donkeys re-

semble humans now and then.

Sky has a chip, just like the other donkeys. This way he can be recognized. The donkeys at the sanctuary are well-cared for: they get their food and drink and when they are sick the vet is called. Yes, they are expensive customers. The volunteers try to cover the cost through organizing all kinds of activities and by selling nice souvenirs in the store. Fortunately there are visitors who adopt a donkey now and then, who donate money or who buy something in the store. They help keep the sanctuary afloat that way.

The volunteers of the sanctuary are now looking for people who wish to adopt Sky. Sky will stay at the sanctuary, of course; the only thing that is needed is AWG. 30 per month pays for his keep. In this way you help support this wonderful donkey, who will quiet down as he ages, as well as the sanctuary. You will receive a nice certificate and a super T-shirt. And if you like, your name and photo will be posted on our website.

Please call the sanctuary at 595-2933 and become Sky's new family; you can also register as an adoptive parent via our website www.arubadonkey.org or deposit a donation on our Aruba Bank account 40.03.025.



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Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals--



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a

very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive

land life. All homes come with cable TV, high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a



amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline pick-up and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for parents or a few couples. Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the is-

modest fee. Concierge services to arrange rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.



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Susan Boyle celebrates double chart success



LONDON, England (AFP) — Scottish singing sensation Susan Boyle has become the first female artist to notch up a simultaneous number one album in the US and Britain twice in less than a year, her record company said.

Her album "The Gift" hit the top spot in Britain on Sunday just days after its release,

and went to number one across the Atlantic on Wednesday.

Boyle's debut album "I Dreamed A Dream" achieved the same success in both countries following its release in late November last year.

Only The Monkees in 1967 and the Beatles in 1969 have also achieved this feat, according to Sony.

Boyle, 49, who shot to worldwide fame after being discovered on British reality TV show "Britain's Got Talent", said: "I've never felt happier in all my life. This is an amazing result and one I never expected."

The singer became a star after her performance of "I Dreamed A Dream" from the musical "Les Miserables" stunned the audience and judges on the ITV show.

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BACK THEN



'Rooi' Taki in rainy season

In the famous old movie "Treasure of the Sierra Madre" starring Humphrey Bogart and winning an Academy Award for its director John Houston, the line "there's gold in them thar hills" became a catchphrase for many years.

And so it was in Aruba.

Gold was first discovered in a rooi (a pool of water formed after a heavy rainfall) in 1824 by 12-year old Willem Rasminj while he was tending to the family's herd of sheep. He brought the shiny rock to his father who sold it for a minimum amount; when resold for more than 4 times that price, the rush was on. Several nuggets were found in the



Gold nugget

same Rooi Fluit and Rooi Diamari totalling about 50kg (about 110 lbs.). In 1854 a nugget weighing 2 kg (5 lbs.) was discovered in Rooi Chicki by Nicolaas Eman. It is believed that there are sizable nuggets still in possession of some of Aruba's oldest families.

When the Dutch Commander in charge of Aruba advised the government in the Netherlands that gold had been discovered, Dutch soldiers arrived the next year to help guard the mining areas. That same year, the first shipment of 71 kg. (156 lbs 2 oz.) departed the island heading for Amsterdam aboard the government frigate "Amstel." The ship never reached Holland and



Ruins of the Spaans Lagoen Gold Mine

speculation still continues about its disappearance.

Although pirates and buccaneers had been marauding the Caribbean and plundering ships and the islands since the late 1400's, there was a slacking off in the 1800's due to more European intervention. Check out the Wikipedia "Piracy in the Caribbean." Avoid the word pirates or zillions of info pops up about Disney World, movies and games.

In a report to the British owners of the Aruba Island Gold Mining Company in 1872, it was stated that the local government worked the mines concentrated in the Miralamar hill area until 1838, when they were abandoned, allowing the local people to work them for their own benefit. However,

lack of capital and workers, the process became that of simply washing and seeking "free gold" which the rain would send down the hill-sides.

In 1899, the complex was built with all the necessary equipment to

mining and processing the gold. The gold was taken in wagons to the foundry at Balashi where the final melting was done. The largest mine at Miralamar was 1.75 meters (almost 6 feet) in diameter. Miners used steam elevators to descend some 900 feet to work in various tunnels. It was closed in 1916 for a variety of economic factors.

The complex is a major site-to-see in the Arikok National Park. The buildings remains are a interesting historically but also as a point that nature still rules and has taken over man-made materials bringing cacti and other plant forms to star at the sight with beautiful views to the north to the sea and of the south side of the island.



Bushiribana Ruins - Gold Smelter, Aruba

Eagles declare energy independence with stadium moves

PHILADELPHIA (AFP) - The Philadelphia Eagles will add solar panels and wind turbines at their home stadium, saying Thursday it will be the world's first stadium with self-generating renewable energy.

The American football club's joint venture with Solar Blue, a Florida firm that will invest 30 million dollars in the project over the next year, will also include a dual-fuel co-generation plant at Lincoln Financial Field.

"The Philadelphia Eagles

are proud to take this vital step towards energy independence from fossil fuels," Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie said.

"It underscores our strong belief that environmentally sensitive policies are consistent with sound business practices."

The plan, scheduled to be finished in time for next September's start of the 2011 National Football League season, will see 80 spiral-shaped wind turbines attached atop the stadium and

2,500 solar panels installed.

Nature gas and bio-diesel fuel will power the co-generation plant.

"With this ground-breaking initiative, the Eagles are taking another significant step forward in their commitment to environmental responsibility," NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said.

"The NFL is proud to support the Eagles as they set the right example for all of sports."

Surprise finalists Dallas, Colorado seek MLS title

TORONTO (AFP) - FC Dallas and the Colorado Rapids, unlikely contenders each seeking a first crown, meet in Sunday's Major League Soccer Cup final after shocking big-name stars such as David Beckham.

The Rapids, 12-8 with 10 drawn, and Dallas, 12-4 with 14 drawn, played to a pair of draws in the US league's regular season, both coming during an MLS record-tying run of 19 matches without a loss by Dallas.

"They are very competitive at all levels," Dallas goalkeeper Kevin Hartman said. "They are the type of team that's going to be competing for second balls and we have to make sure we match that."

Dallas ousted English star midfielder Beckham and his Los Angeles Galaxy team-

mates in the semi-finals after earlier dispatching defending champions Real Salt Lake, who denied Beckham's title bid in last year's MLS Cup final.

Colorado, only seventh-best in the league's regular season, knocked out San Jose in the other semi-final after the Earthquakes had eliminated the New York Red Bulls and their French striker Thierry Henry.

The Rapids beat Columbus in the first round.

"Colorado, they are very similar to us," Dallas coach Schellas Hyndman said. "I don't think either team really got the respect from the media or from people in the soccer world to be in the MLS Cup final."

"But when it comes down to it, both teams have played with a lot of character and a

lot of heart."

The Rapids lost only three of their final 14 matches, boosting their belief in a first-time title with every triumph.

"Form is confidence," Rapids coach Gary Smith said. "It's confidence not only in your own game, but in your team-mates as well."

"All in all, we're in a very nice place. I think we deserve to be here. We've been competitive when we needed to be. We've shown good resilience."

Dallas players have something to prove as well and lifting the champion's trophy would achieve it.

"There's a little bit of a motivating factor for some of the guys that want to disprove the naysayers," Hartman said. "But the reality is, we think we deserve this."



Carlos Martins of Portugal celebrates scoring his sides opening goal as goalkeeper Iker Casillas (R) of Spain stands dejected during the International Friendly match between Portugal and Spain at the Estadio da Luz yesterday in Lisbon, Portugal.





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Longoria's husband 'only flirted' with other woman: reports



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - French basketball star Tony Parker only flirted with another woman in text messages and nothing more, reports said Thursday after his wife "Desperate Housewives" star Eva Longoria filed for divorce.

The 35-year-old decided to divorce Parker after finding the text exchanges with the wife of one of his San Antonio Spurs teammates, Brent Barry, People magazine and the TMZ website said.

"They knew each other, sent each other messages," a source close to Parker told People referring to Erin Barry, adding: "It was flirtatious, but he never did anything with her."

The TMZ celebrity website also reported that Parker denies having had sex with his ex-tenant's wife.

Longoria, who married Parker in a lavish French chateau ceremony in 2007, confirmed she had filed for divorce on Wednesday, saying on her Twitter feed: "We love each other deeply and pray for each other's happi-

ness."

Court papers filed at Los Angeles Superior Court showed that Longoria -- who has reportedly canceled all upcoming appearances -- cited "irreconcilable differences" for the split.

But a television presenter who is a close friend of the actress said Longoria told her she had found hundreds of texts on his cellphone from Erin Barry.

Mario Lopez of the celebrity news show "Extra" said she had also discovered that Parker had cheated on her earlier in their marriage, and stayed in contact with the woman via the Facebook social networking site.

Longoria and 28-year-old Parker, who is one of the top European players in the National Basketball Association, signed a pre-nuptial agreement a month before their wedding, updated two years later, according to People.

Brent Barry's father Rick meanwhile told TMZ that his son was divorcing.

"I feel horrible for my son. I'm in shock. I knew (Erin) was moving out of the house soon and she was the one that filed for divorce. This is the straw that broke the camel's back," said the NBA Hall of Famer.

Parker was asked about the split on Wednesday evening, when he spoke briefly with a clutch of reporters outside the Spurs' locker room before the team's NBA contest against Chicago.

"It's a difficult time right now for me and Eva," said Parker, who has no children with Eva.




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Seattle's Hernandez captures Cy Young Award



NEW YORK (AFP) - Seattle's Felix Hernandez, with the best pitching statistics

and worst run support in Major League Baseball's American League, won the Cy Young Award on Thursday as the league's top pitcher.

The 24-year-old Venezuelan right-hander received 21 of 28 possible first-place votes with Tampa Bay's

David Price drawing four and New York Yankees star C.C. Sabathia garnering the other three in media panel balloting.

Hernandez had the lowest earned-run average in the major leagues at 2.27 and led the American League with 249 2/3 innings pitched, 232 strikeouts, 34 starts and in opponent batting average, keeping foes to .212 at the plate.

But Mariners batters squandered his heroics, with his 3.06 runs per appearance the lowest in the American League.

It left him with only a 13-12 season record, putting him 71-53 for his major league career.

'King Felix' had the fewest victories by any Cy Young Award winner who was a starting pitcher and played a full season.

The choice was always about whether the honored pitcher needed to have produced victories.

Price went 19-6 with a 2.72 earned-run average for the AL East division champion Rays, while Sabathia led the American League with 21 triumphs for the Yankees.

The only other Mariners pitcher to capture a Cy Young Award was Randy Johnson, who took the prize in 1995.

Top vote-getters

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	Pts
Hernandez	21	2	3	1	1	167
Price, TB	4	15	7	1	-	111
Sabathia, NY	3	10	12	2	1	102
Lester, BOS	-	-	1	9	12	33
Weaver, LAA	-	1	2	6	2	24

2010 regular season

	W	L	ERA	IP	SO
Hernandez	13	12	2.27	249.2	232
Price	19	6	2.72	208.2	188
Sabathia	21	7	3.18	237.2	197
Lester	19	9	3.25	208.0	225
Weaver	13	12	3.01	224.1	233

Balloting begins for 60th All-Star Game

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - NBA officials unveiled the ballot for the 60th NBA All-Star Game on Thursday as balloting began to determine the starting line-ups for the annual showdown set to be played in Los Angeles next February.

Fans worldwide can vote daily for their favorite players, including in 20 languages on the league's website, via mobile telephones and at NBA arenas.

For the first time, NBA supporters can print paper ballots at home and mail them to the league.

Wireless and internet balloting will conclude on January 23, six days after paper ballot collections are halted, and All-Star starters will be announced January 27.

The ballot features 120 players, 60 each from the Eastern and Western Conferences, with 24 forwards, 24 guards and 12 centers from each conference. Six reporters who regularly cover the NBA determined the names for the ballot.

Los Angeles will host the all-star match-up for the fifth time, having last done so in 2004.



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I can't fight racism on my own, says Balotelli

ROME, Italy (AFP) - Italy striker Mario Balotelli has called on everyone to join the fight against racism after he was abused by both sets of supporters during an international friendly in Austria.

Italy and Romania drew 1-1 in Klagenfurt on Wednesday night but the game caught the headlines for the treatment of the Manchester City forward.

Romanian fans jeered him while his own supporters held up a banner saying: 'No to a multi-cultural Italy'.

Italian police gave the names of 41 members of a right-wing group called 'Ultras Italy' to Austrian police, who may press charges.

Speaking to Sky TV, the Italian of Ghanaian parentage said: "On my own I can't do anything, everyone has to do

something against racism.

"Last night I was very disappointed but I'll say it again, I'm not the one who can make these people change.

"Brescia is my city and I live well there but it's also a difficult place, when I was young many kids attacked me because of the colour of my skin.

"What happened yesterday is racism but it's also the

stupidity of a few people. I'm sure that if any one of them met me personally, they'd ask for my autograph.

Balotelli was asked if he considered leaving the pitch but said that was never an option due to the pride he feels when representing his country.

"That would have been really too much for a few id-

iots. And, what's more, it was my second cap," he said.

Fans displaying the banner told Austrian police that it wasn't racism but "merely an opinion", Italian news agency Ansa reported.

Inter Milan's Cameroonian forward Samuel Eto'o, meanwhile, was the victim of jeers during his team's recent game at Cagliari.

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